

## **SPRINGDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF EDWARD T. SOUTHWORTH**

The goal of the Springdale Police Department is to provide police services that contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of all its citizens. Paramount to this effort is the protection of citizens who have been victimized by crime. The goal of this endeavor is to provide assistance and services that prevent re-victimization by offenders. To this end, the Springdale Police Department employs a victim assistance division responsible for ensuring the fair, impartial and prompt delivery of victim services. We encourage you to study the information that follows. It will guide you through the victim assistance process. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask our victim assistance officer, Wendy Frazier at (803) 796-3160 or email at [victimsadvocate@springdale-sc.com](mailto:victimsadvocate@springdale-sc.com)

### **AFTERMATH OF CRIME**

Survivors of crime and their family members may have a variety of emotional reactions. These may include:

- WITHDRAWAL – including depression, isolation from family, friends or important activities. Avoidance of any reminders, including the place connected to the incident, and efforts to avoid thoughts of the loss or the event.
- RE-EXPERIENCING - including thoughts of the event that may be difficult to control, flashbacks, nightmares, and physical problems when exposed to events that are reminders.
- OTHER SYMPTOMS – including sleep difficulty, irritability, angry outbursts, and trouble concentrating.

(Courtesy of Dr. Larry Bergman, Post Trauma Resources, Columbia, SC)

### **CRIME VICTIMS COMPENSATION FUND**

A victim of crime who has suffered physical injury, psychological trauma, or death of a family member may be eligible for compensation benefits if:

- The crime is reported to appropriate the Law Enforcement Agency within 48 hours.
- A claim is filed within 180 days of the crime.
- A victim fully cooperates with all Law Enforcement Agencies and the State Office of Victim's Assistance.
- The victim was not engaged in any illegal activity at the time of the crime.

### **VICTIMS ASSISTANCE SERVICES**

The Springdale Victims Assistance Program is available at no cost to the victims of crime. The program offers the following services:

- Assistance with information on the Criminal Justice System.
- Assistance with information on the status of your case.
- Assistance with filing an application for the Crime Victim's Compensation Fund.
- Referrals to other Agencies that may be able to help with the needs related to victimization.
- Court Accompaniment.
- Assistance with the information concerning your Rights as a Crime Victim.

### **YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES**

Under S.C. Law, in order to fully exercise your rights as a crime victim, you have certain responsibilities. These are:

- Provide each agency involved in your case with your current legal name, mailing address and telephone numbers.
- Notify the appropriate authority if you desire to be present for future hearings.
- Contact your Victim Advocate if you are harassed or threatened.

### **VICTIM RIGHTS**

Under S.C. Law, crime victims have the following rights:

- To be treated with fairness, dignity, respect and to be free from intimidation, harassment or abuse.
- To be informed of your Constitutional Rights.
- To be reasonably informed when the accused or convicted person is arrested, released or has escaped.
- To be informed of and present at all Criminal Proceedings which are indicative of the charges where the defendant has a right to be present.
- To be heard at any proceeding involving a post-arrest release decision, a plea or sentencing.
- To be reasonably protected from the accused or persons acting on his behalf throughout the Criminal Justice System.
- To confer with the prosecution, after the crime against the victim has been charged, before trial, or before any disposition.
- To have reasonable access after the conclusion of the Criminal investigation to all documents relating to the crime against the person.
- To receive prompt and full restitution from the convicted person, or the conduct that caused the victim's loss or injury including both adult and juvenile offenders.
- To be informed of any proceeding when any post-conviction is being considered and to be present at any post-conviction hearing involving a post-conviction release decision.
- To a reasonable disposition and prompt and final conclusion of the case.

Additionally, as a crime victim, you may submit a written statement before sentencing. You may also request restitution if you provide full details of financial impact in a timely manner.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

When calling about your case, it is helpful for you to provide us with the case information included at the top of the cover letter. Please refer to the case number when inquiring about your case.